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Illinois Issues

IN-DEPTH

UNIVERSITY OF
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Methodology

The University of Illinois Springfield Survey Research Office (SRO) is dedicated to the principles of transparency in research and is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) [Transparency Initiative](#). Membership entails adherence to AAPOR's code of ethics as well as a commitment to promoting the understanding of survey methodology and how it relates to survey quality. For more information about project methodology, please contact the UIS Survey Research Office at sro@uis.edu.

The 2019 *Illinois Issues Survey* was designed and analyzed by the staff of the Center for State Policy and Leadership, the Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies, and the Survey Research Office at the University of Illinois Springfield. This project is co-sponsored by the Center for State Policy and Leadership, NPR Illinois, and the Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies at the University of Illinois Springfield. The study was conducted in English by the Survey Research Office via the Qualtrics Research Suite. The online panel was provided by Qualtrics.

The survey was fielded from **September 13-September 23, 2019** among a sample of **1,012 registered voters, all at least 18 years or older, in Illinois**. For **all respondents** the **credibility interval** is plus or minus **3.5**. While a margin of error is often used to express uncertainty in

polling, for online surveys credibility intervals are used to measure the accuracy, or uncertainty, of the survey. When examining subgroups, the credibility interval will increase. The survey includes quotas for gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, income, and region of the state. The sample was weighted based on the demographic composition of these groups in Illinois using the most recent population estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017 American Community Survey. For additional information on weighting, please click [here](#). All sample surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including but not limited to sampling error, coverage error, and measurement error.

The survey included various checks to ensure the validity of the data collected from respondents. Click [here](#) for an extended explanation for all the checks Qualtrics does for their panels.

Notes for reading the results:

- Percentages may not always add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- Values less than 0.5 percent are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Survey Sample Compared to Illinois

Group	Weighted Sample	Illinois
Male	48%	49%
Female	52%	51%
18 to 34	24%	24%
35 to 44	18%	18%
45 to 59	29%	29%
60 and Older	29%	29%
Cook County	40%	40%
Collar Counties	25%	25%
Downstate	35%	35%
White	62%	62%
Black	14%	14%
Hispanic	13%	17%
Other	10%	7%
High School Diploma or Less	31%	34%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	33%	32%
Four-Year Degree or More	36%	34%
Under \$45,000	46%	46%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	30%	30%
Greater than \$100,001	24%	24%
Firearm Owning ¹	26%	26%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	53%	
Non-Leaning Independent	15%	
Republican/Republican Leaning	30%	

¹ Kalesan, B., Villarreal, M.D., Keyes, K.M. and Galea, S., 2016. Gun ownership and social gun culture. *Injury prevention*, 22(3), pp.216-220.

Public Opinion of Illinois Voters towards Firearm Policies

Consistent with 2018 (89%), approximately nine in ten respondents (92%) support mental health background checks on all firearm purchases. When looking at key subgroups in the state, support remains consistently high. 94% of Democrats and Democrat-leaning independents support mental health background checks, compared to 91% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. 90% of non-leaning independents support such a policy. A six-percentage point difference separates downstate residents (88%) from Cook County (94%) residents, and a seven-percentage point difference separates downstate residents from collar county residents (95%). When it comes to race and ethnicity, 96% of Black voters support mental health background checks on all firearm purchases, with the lowest level of support coming from Hispanic voters (89%). Notably, 92% of voters living in a household with firearms support mental health background checks, slightly less than voters in households without firearms (94%).

In a substantial increase from 2018 (58%), nearly three-quarters (72%) of Illinois voters support an assault weapons ban. National polls have also shown improvements in support for this policy from 2018 and 2019.² There is notable partisan variation in support for this policy. While 83% of Democrats and Democrat-leaning independents support this policy, a small majority (56%) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents do. Non-leaning independents are in the middle of the two partisan groups at 64%. There is also notable variation across the regions of the state. While 79% of Cook County voters support this policy, 73% of collar county voters and 63% percent of downstate voters do. Further, while slightly over three-quarters (77%) of voters living in non-firearm owning households support this policy, 59% of voters living in firearm owning homes do.

A new question in 2019 asked respondents their attitudes towards banning ammunition magazines with a capacity of more than ten rounds, commonly referred to as high-capacity magazines. 74% of Illinois voters support banning high-capacity magazines. While 83% of Democrats and Democrat-leaning Illinois voters support such a policy, 62% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters do. Two-thirds (67%) of non-leaning independents support a ban on high-capacity magazines. Further, while over three-fourths (78%) of Cook County voters support such a ban, less than two-thirds (65%) of downstate voters do. Collar county voters (74%) are slightly less likely than Cook County voters to support such a policy and about nine percentage points more likely than downstate voters. Slightly less than two-thirds (62%) of voters living in firearm owning households support a high-capacity magazine ban, compared to over three-fourths (78%) of voters residing in non-firearm owning households.

Another addition in 2019 asks respondents their attitudes towards requiring applicants for the Firearm Owner ID (FOID) card to submit fingerprints as part of their application. 88% of Illinois voters surveyed support this policy. 93% of Democrats and Democrat-leaning voters support such a system. Fewer Republicans and Republican-leaning voters (81%) do, with non-leaning independents (86%) in between in their support of fingerprinting as part of the FOID application process. Compared to partisan differences, there is less variation across regions of Illinois. 92%

² Fox News. Fox News Poll, August 2019. Beacon Research/Shaw & Co. Research. Fox News. Fox News Poll, March 2018. Anderson Robbins Research/Shaw & Co. Research.

of Cook County residents support fingerprinting, compared to 87% of voters in the collar counties and 85% of downstate voters. There is also a difference when it comes to gender. 92% of female respondents support fingerprinting for FOID applications, compared to 84% of male respondents. While 91% of voters living in non-firearm owning homes support fingerprinting, fewer of those in firearm owning households (83%) do. There is slight variation when it comes to age, as the age group most likely to support fingerprinting is those ages 60 and up (91%) while those ages 18 to 24 (85%) are the least supportive. Education also has some slight variation, as those with a four-year college degree or higher (85%) are least likely to support such a policy and those with between a high school diploma and four-year degree (91%) are most likely.

Crosstabs

Do you support or oppose requiring mental health background checks on all firearm purchases?

Group	Support Net	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Oppose Net	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
All Respondents	92%	73%	19%	8%	5%	3%
Male	93%	68%	25%	8%	5%	3%
Female	93%	78%	15%	7%	5%	2%
18 to 34	90%	66%	23%	10%	6%	4%
35 to 44	91%	69%	22%	9%	7%	2%
45 to 59	92%	77%	15%	8%	6%	2%
60 and Older	96%	77%	19%	4%	1%	3%
Cook County	94%	79%	15%	6%	3%	3%
Collar Counties	95%	76%	19%	5%	3%	2%
Downstate	88%	64%	24%	11%	8%	3%
White	92%	69%	23%	8%	6%	2%
Black	96%	86%	10%	4%	1%	3%
Hispanic	89%	74%	15%	11%	5%	6%
Other	89%	77%	12%	11%	7%	4%
High School Diploma or Less	92%	73%	19%	9%	6%	3%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	93%	77%	16%	7%	5%	2%
Four-Year Degree or More	91%	74%	17%	8%	4%	4%
Under \$45,000	92%	72%	20%	9%	6%	3%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	93%	72%	21%	7%	4%	3%
Greater than \$100,001	94%	76%	17%	6%	4%	2%
Firearm Owning Household	92%	67%	25%	8%	6%	2%
Non-Firearm Owning Household	94%	76%	17%	7%	4%	3%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	94%	81%	13%	6%	3%	3%
Non-Leaning Independent	90%	69%	21%	10%	8%	2%
Republican/Republican Leaning	91%	62%	29%	9%	6%	3%

Do you support or oppose banning ammunition magazines with a capacity of more than 10 rounds, commonly known as high-capacity magazines?

Group	Support Net	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Oppose Net	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
All Respondents	74%	54%	20%	27%	12%	15%
Male	68%	49%	19%	33%	13%	20%
Female	78%	58%	20%	21%	11%	10%
18 to 34	69%	41%	27%	31%	16%	15%
35 to 44	66%	45%	21%	34%	16%	18%
45 to 59	70%	54%	16%	29%	12%	17%
60 and Older	84%	69%	15%	15%	5%	10%
Cook County	78%	61%	17%	22%	12%	10%
Collar Counties	74%	56%	18%	25%	7%	18%
Downstate	65%	42%	23%	35%	16%	19%
White	70%	50%	20%	29%	12%	17%
Black	79%	65%	14%	21%	12%	9%
Hispanic	72%	50%	22%	28%	13%	15%
Other	84%	60%	24%	16%	8%	8%
High School Diploma or Less	73%	51%	22%	28%	13%	15%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	75%	55%	20%	25%	12%	13%
Four-Year Degree or More	81%	67%	14%	19%	9%	10%
Under \$45,000	70%	48%	22%	32%	16%	14%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	73%	52%	21%	27%	12%	15%
Greater than \$100,001	79%	66%	13%	20%	4%	16%
Firearm Owning Household	62%	43%	19%	38%	13%	25%
Non-Firearm Owning Household	78%	59%	19%	22%	11%	11%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	83%	65%	18%	18%	9%	9%
Non-Leaning Independent	67%	46%	21%	33%	18%	15%
Republican/Republican Leaning	62%	40%	22%	39%	14%	25%

Do you support or oppose a weapons ban to include firearms similar to the AR-15 and AK-47, sometimes referred to as assault weapons?

Group	Support Net	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Oppose Net	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
All Respondents	72%	55%	17%	29%	10%	19%
Male	65%	49%	16%	34%	10%	24%
Female	77%	60%	17%	22%	9%	13%
18 to 34	65%	45%	20%	35%	13%	22%
35 to 44	63%	45%	18%	37%	14%	23%
45 to 59	71%	54%	17%	28%	8%	20%
60 and Older	82%	70%	12%	18%	6%	12%
Cook County	79%	66%	13%	21%	8%	13%
Collar Counties	73%	57%	16%	27%	7%	20%
Downstate	63%	41%	22%	38%	14%	24%
White	68%	50%	18%	31%	10%	21%
Black	81%	67%	14%	20%	6%	14%
Hispanic	73%	55%	18%	27%	11%	16%
Other	76%	68%	8%	24%	11%	13%
High School Diploma or Less	71%	53%	18%	29%	10%	19%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	74%	56%	17%	27%	11%	16%
Four-Year Degree or More	79%	68%	11%	21%	9%	12%
Under \$45,000	70%	51%	19%	30%	12%	18%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	69%	52%	17%	31%	11%	20%
Greater than \$100,001	78%	66%	12%	23%	5%	18%
Firearm Owning Household	59%	43%	16%	42%	14%	28%
Non-Firearm Owning Household	77%	60%	17%	23%	8%	15%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	83%	69%	14%	17%	6%	11%
Non-Leaning Independent	64%	46%	18%	36%	18%	18%
Republican/Republican Leaning	56%	36%	20%	43%	12%	31%

Do you support or oppose requiring applicants for the Firearms Owner ID (FOID) card to submit fingerprints as part of their application?

Group	Support Net	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Oppose Net	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
All Respondents	88%	69%	19%	12%	6%	6%
Male	84%	61%	23%	17%	8%	9%
Female	92%	77%	15%	8%	5%	3%
18 to 34	85%	60%	25%	15%	8%	7%
35 to 44	86%	66%	20%	14%	7%	7%
45 to 59	89%	74%	15%	11%	6%	5%
60 and Older	91%	75%	16%	9%	5%	4%
Cook County	92%	77%	15%	8%	4%	4%
Collar Counties	77%	72%	15%	13%	5%	8%
Downstate	85%	59%	26%	16%	10%	6%
White	87%	66%	21%	12%	7%	5%
Black	92%	79%	13%	9%	4%	5%
Hispanic	89%	73%	16%	11%	4%	7%
Other	82%	72%	10%	18%	8%	10%
High School Diploma or Less	90%	72%	18%	10%	6%	4%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	91%	71%	20%	9%	3%	6%
Four-Year Degree or More	85%	73%	12%	15%	9%	6%
Under \$45,000	88%	67%	21%	12%	7%	5%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	87%	68%	19%	13%	7%	6%
Greater than \$100,001	88%	75%	13%	12%	5%	7%
Firearm Owning Household	83%	62%	21%	17%	7%	10%
Non-Firearm Owning Household	91%	74%	17%	10%	6%	4%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	93%	79%	14%	6%	3%	3%
Non-Leaning Independent	86%	63%	23%	14%	8%	6%
Republican/Republican Leaning	81%	57%	24%	20%	11%	9%